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Subject: ONAP - petition to House of Commons for accessible housing

Hi ONAP –

I'm involved with the Older Women's Network in Ontario and their quest to improve housing for people with disabilities in Ontario and nationally.

Please see the call to action to petition the House of Commons to change to our national and provincial building codes to mandate that new housing be universally designed. The have received 814 signatures to date and the petition closes on November 1. Petitions do receive notice in the House of Commons when they are supported by Canadians and many more signatures are needed !!!

You can read the more detail description below and select the link to sign the petition if this matter is something that you support. In addition, if it is a fit for you, please share this information through your networks both locally and throughout the country.

Of course, if this is something you cannot support, I do apologize for the intrusion.

Thanks,
 Judi

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From: K C
To: OWN / Older Women's Network
Subject: URGENT - Please share the petition far and wide

Hi everyone who supports the OWN housing committee's petition to the House of Commons.

Please help us get 500,000 signatures in the next 2 weeks. Send this information far and wide to all your contacts, especially in other provinces and the territories.

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Why we need to change the national and provincial building codes to end blatant discrimination against people with disabilities.

The Older Women's Network housing committee campaign, "Living in Place", is calling for a change to our national and provincial building codes to mandate that all new housing be universal design so anyone of any age or ability can live there.

Disabilities play no favourites. Anyone can have been born with a disability, and anyone of any age can be struck by illness or accident which creates a temporary or lasting injury. Over 4.4 million Canadians (one out of every seven) live with some form of disability.

Universal design will accommodate anyone of any age or ability, going beyond mere accessibility. Barrier-free housing is a human right. Age-ism and able-ism are the last frontiers of discrimination. We need innovative housing which is affordable, barrier-free, multi-generational and promotes the building of community.

There is a misperception that universal design costs a great deal more than conventional design. However, in fact, the cost of universal design in housing is less than 1% more when planned from the initial design stage.

The Living in Place© campaign has been endorsed by Toronto City Council.

In conjunction with the campaign, OWN has launched a petition to the House of Commons, sponsored by Toronto Danforth MP Julie Dabrusin. The petition, which is open for signature until November 1, is available for signatures at

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1768>

Hundreds more signatures are needed in order to get the attention of MPs. Canadians are also urged to contact their MP asking for a vote in support of this petition and for action.

Here is the petition:

Petition to the House of Commons

Whereas:

- 20% of Canadians are reported to have a disability, including 200,000 Canadian children;
- This is predicted to rise to 25% by 2031;
- People of all ages have disabilities of many types;
- There is no building code in Canada mandating that housing be made accessible to people with disabilities;
- Universal design will accommodate anyone of any age or ability, going beyond mere accessibility, and demonstrating an underlying commitment to including as wide a range of users as possible; and
- The Canadian Human Rights Code and Charter of Rights and Freedoms forbid discrimination on the basis of disability.

We, the undersigned, residents of Canada, call upon the House of Commons to:

- 1) Immediately amend the National Building Code of Canada, making it mandatory that all housing in any way under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada be universal design;
- 2) Ensure that the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes and CMHC collaborate on defining in the Building Code what is visitable, adaptable, accessible, barrier-free, and universal design;
- 3) Ensure that specifications for visitable, adaptable, accessible, barrier-free and universal design for the residential sector be clearly illustrated in the National Building Code,
- 4) Comply with United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities on accessibility of housing;
- 5) Disaggregate Statistics Canada data on disability; and
- 6) Require that any federal funds transferred to provinces, territories, or any other organization for housing fund only universally designed housing.

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